

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I STRONGLY believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I believe that the deregulation proposed will lessen competition, discourage diverse voice, lead to higher costs for advertising business that advertise and consumers who buy from them, AND COMPROMISE SAFETY IN AN AGE OF TERRORISM. Surely the FCC members are aware of the story from Minto, North Dakota, where in this rural town no one was on duty at the absentee-owned radio station and thus a weather warning could not be broadcast.

The public interest and public safety will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take additional time to hold many more public hearings in order to review -- and allow the American people to review -- these issues more thoroughly. The American people must have a more meaningful say in the process.

I thank you for your consideration of citizen comments.

Steve Marquardt  
212 Sundance Pass  
Brookings, South Dakota 57006-3600  
e-mail: judystev@brookings.net